

Dear FCC: It is my firm belief that consolidation of media, and the relaxing of regulations is a bad idea, and one that curries favor with big business over the rights of individuals to get their news and information accurately and fairly. It is a case of money driving everything. Costs are a factor, but more important in a democracy is the citizen's right to be informed. The argument made by big media that this dynamic can be maintained is self-serving, convenient for them, but contradicts the track record since 1996. In fact, the recent coverage of the war on Iraq provides ample evidence of the public being served a product more than actual news.

I urge you to maintain your standards of fairness and a certain level of dignity by rejecting any attempts toward further media consolidation and the relaxation of regulations.

Sincerely,

John Ephland
Kalamazoo Mich.